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July 28, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication, WT Docket No. 02-353, Service Rules for
Advanced Wireless Services in the 1.7 GHz and 2.1 GHz Bands

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (“Cook”), an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, is the controlling member of Cook Inlet/VS GSM VII PCS, LLC (“CIVS VII”), the licensee of 36 personal communications service (“PCS”) licenses on which CIVS VII was high bidder in Auction No. 58. Cook has a proven track record as a Commission licensee and a participant in Commission auctions as a designated entity (“DE”). The Commission’s DE policies have resulted in unquestionable public interest benefits, and its rules have made it possible for numerous DEs to participate in auctions that otherwise would have been out of reach. In light of Cook’s years of experience in participating in PCS auctions and building and operating PCS systems, we disagree with the restrictive suggestions recently made by Council Tree Communications, Inc. (“Council Tree”) in its June 13, 2005 *ex parte* presentation in this docket.

The new suggestions made by Council Tree at the eleventh hour in this proceeding would result in delay in conducting the auctions and in permitting highly demanded new service from being provided to the public. On this basis alone, the Commission should reject them. On the merits, too, Council Tree’s suggestions are unwise and contrary to the public interest. In particular, restricting DEs’ choice of non-controlling partners to prevent them from partnering with larger telecommunications providers with whom their licenses overlap would unnecessarily limit the companies with whom DEs will be able to work and would deprive DEs of an important source of capital. There is no showing that these partnerships have disserved the public interest. To the contrary, many successful DEs have established just this type of partnership, fully consistent with the Commission’s rules and policies, and have expedited service to the public by using these arrangements.

The adoption of any of these new and untested proposals now, as the Commission stands ready to finally establish a band plan that would permit AWS

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spectrum to be auctioned so that highly demanded advanced services can be provided to the public, would inevitably cause delay. We urge the Commission to reject these proposals and move forward with a band plan and service rules that will be consistent with the Commission's long history of DE policies that have permitted Cook and many other DEs to successfully provide service to the American public.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kurt Wimmer

Kurt Wimmer
Christine Enemark

Counsel for Cook Inlet Region, Inc.